

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Illinois
COUNTY: Cook
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1 NAME	
COMMON: Germania Club	
AND/OR HISTORIC: Germania Club	

2 LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 108 West Germania Place			
CITY OR TOWN: Chicago		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: --	
STATE: Illinois	CODE	COUNTY: Cook	CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>ethnic social club</u>

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY	
OWNER'S NAME: Germania Club, Inc.	
STREET AND NUMBER: 108 West Germania Place	
CITY OR TOWN: Chicago	STATE: Illinois

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION	
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Cook County Recorder of Deeds	
STREET AND NUMBER: County Building, 118 North Clark Street	
CITY OR TOWN: Chicago	STATE: Illinois

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS	
TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey	
DATE OF SURVEY: 1956	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: D.C.

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Having a five-story facade above a lower level basement, the building stretches for six bays along the south elevation and four along the east. The two-story base, which has survived without major alterations, is composed of limestone courses, alternately rought and smooth. On the south facade a columnar portico containing a large, arched doorway stands before the third bay to the east. The three bays west of it have basement windows; on the floor above are large, linteled, double-divided windows. The two bays to the east of the entrance, and the four along the Clark Street facade, house commercial shops on the ground floor and have triple-divided windows above.

The upper part of both facades has a rich complexity of forms. Each bay contains a large window divided into two sections by a column that sustains a limestone cornice; an arch is placed above each part of the window, and the window unit in each bay is capped by a single decorated limestone pediment. A stout, ornamented pilaster rising from a corbel set just below the limestone cornice rises between the pediments to hold the large cornice that concludes the building. Between these pilasters are six panels of brick or decorative limestone separated by limestone colonnettes decorated with spiral fluting.

In the upper part not all the bays are the same. The double windows in the easternmost bay on the south facade are replaced by three stout limestone piers that sustain a terra cotta panel revealing an allegorical female figure. On the Clark Street facade, the building is enlivened by two bays in the center that contain an enclosed porch projecting beyond the face of the building.

The southeast corner is anchored by a pyramidal roofed projection the size of a corner bay.

Upon entering, one is in an anteroom which contains steps that lead to two double doors. Beyond this set of foors is the large entrance hall which gives access to the various parts of the building. To the left are the club restaurant and bar, game rooms, and the Wagner Room, a lush banqueting room with richly carbed fixtures, frescoes of German themes, and wood friezes with themes from Wagnerian operas. To the right of the entrance hall is the grand staircase leading to the grand ballroom directly above the club rooms. It is a high ceilinged hall with large chandeliers and an impressive tile portrait ("our masterpiece") depicting the Spirit of Germania in a rich rococo setting reminiscent of a church reredos. Other inside spaces include offices, a secret society's meeting room, various other club rooms, and offices and recreation rooms in the basement.

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
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(Number all entries)

6. (Continued)

Commission on Chicago Historical and Architectural Landmarks
(local)
1973
320 North Clark Street, Room 800
Chicago, Illinois

Landmarks Preservation Council and Service Inventory
(local)
1973
407 South Dearborn Street
Chicago, Illinois

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8. (Continued)

The Germania Club is the last surviving structure commemorating an area on the Northwest side which was in the 19th century the center of Chicago's German community. As such it provides a pleasing and human counterpart to the high rise complex of Sandburg Village, and is in fact often used by the residents of the apartment complex when a large hall is needed for social functions.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1889; August Fiedler, architect

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>urban planning</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The major significance of the Germania Club is historical. It is certainly the most outstanding historical site in the area for Chicago's German residents, one of the largest ethnic communities of the city. In a wider sense it is an important landmark to the city's peculiar ethnic character, a character that distinguishes Chicago from most other large American cities. The Club building dates from 1889, just 24 years after the founding of the Germania Maennerchor (the Germania Men's Chorus) as a choral group formed to laud Lincoln at his funeral. The club is Chicago's oldest German organization. The present building is the only home which the club has owned and occupied in its 109 years. As the premier hall for significant events in the German community, the Germania Club has long been the scene of many of the key events which have shaped and affected this ethnic group, as can be seen in the fact that the name of the club was changed to the "Lincoln Club" during the First World War, which was a time of great persecution for German-Americans. It is still used extensively by the German community.

The architectural significance of the club is also great, and its historical significance is reflected in its architecture. It is a bold structure clearly derived from then-current German architectural motifs. It therefore reflects the conservatism dominant in the 19th century middle-class German community, which was concerned with becoming an accepted and valuable part of the American community. The architecture can be described as eclectic, with a predominance of neo-classical and German Renaissance elements. The architect, August Fiedler, practiced in New York, where he designed over fifty schools for the New York public school system. In New York, he was closely connected with the German community.

This building is an interesting counterpart to the more adventurous spirit of the Chicago school. It reflects a basic conservatism and concern for past styles which Chicago's architects were to a great extent rejecting at the time the club was built. The Germania Club is also an excellent example of the monumental style used at the time for public buildings and mansions, where architects were not liberated by the immediacy and peculiar demands of commerce.

Throughout the Club's history members and individuals interested in the German community have donated works of art which decorate the interior. Premier among these is the tile allegorical portrait of the Spirit of Germania in the main ballroom, which was commissioned by Kaiser Wilhelm II for the German exhibit at the Columbian Exposition and which was later donated by the Kaiser to the Club. A number of the rooms are decorated with frescoes and friezes on German themes done by local artists.

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ira Bach, Chicago on Foot, Chicago, 1973.

One Hundredth Anniversary of the Germania Club, 1865-1965, Karl Harig, Chairman, Centennial Committee, 64pp., Chicago, 1965.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than 1

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Lewis Schorsch, c/o C. W. Westfall

ORGANIZATION: Landmarks Preservation Council DATE: 1/22/76

STREET AND NUMBER:
407 South Dearborn Street

CITY OR TOWN: Chicago STATE: Illinois CODE:

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS